

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~An access authentication system is provided for authenticating access for~~
~~visitors~~ To gain visiting access to a wireless local area network (W-LAN), the
operator of which administers a visitor authentication, ~~authorisation~~
authorization and accounting (VAAA) server, ~~a~~ [[. A]] user requesting ~~visiting~~
such access ~~to the W-LAN, is required to~~ must have a valid cellular mobile
account, a portable computing device with a browser and a valid W-LAN card
from another operation that administers a home authentication, ~~authorisation~~
authorization and accounting (HAAA) server. The user, ~~on requesting visiting~~
~~access to the W-LAN,~~ inputs, via the VAAA server, identity information that
enables the HAAA to issue a personal identification number (PIN) which is
encoded and forwarded, ~~preferably by way of a short message services (SMS),~~ to
the user's mobile telephone. This encoded PIN is transferred to the browser to
authenticate the requested visiting access ~~to the W-LAN,~~ and the costs
~~associated with~~ of such access are billed to the user's cellular mobile account.
The [[, the]] requested access [[being]] is achieved via the user's browser. The
user may employ the browser to convey the identity information~~[[,]]~~ to the VAAA
via the W-LAN, or via the mobile telephone. ~~to the VAAA. Alternatively, the~~
~~user may call the VAAA on the mobile telephone to provide said identity~~
~~information in which case, the subject telephone call is preferably forwarded to~~
~~the HAAA via a premium rate call unit.~~